2092. [*Transferred to the 12th May, 1992.*]

Promotion of SC/ST officers

2093. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

KUMARI ALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2454 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March 1992 and state:

(a) whether operation of November, 1987 Eligibility List in place of March, 1987 Eligibility List has changed the number of 104 reserved vacancies out of 460 vacancies in Grade I of CSS;

(b) whether Supreme Court has given specific direction not to promote SC/ST officers as per 40 Point Roster by extending zone of consideration to fill up reserved quota;

(c) whether Court has given specific direction to revert SC/ST officers already promoted as Under Secretaries against reserved quota; and

(d) whether question of filling up of 22 percent reserved vacancies is in dispute before the Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In the interim order issued by the Supreme Court on 20-9-1991, the direction was that during the pendency of the appeal, promotion should be made only on the basis of the Eligibility List of 1987, according to the ranking in that list. In the light of the contempt petition filed against the promotion order issued on 4.12.1991 and the clarifications given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 22.1.1992 during the hearing of the said contempt petition, it was decided to make promotions from the Eligibility List of November, 1987 strictly following the ranking in that list and in that process officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who did not come within the ranking had to be left out. While there was no specific direction from the Hon'ble Supreme Court to revert SC|ST officers, the consequence of making promotions strictly according to the ranking in the eligibility list was non-promotion of SC|ST officers fully according to the reserved quota. An interim application has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking permission to promote SC/ST officers against the quota of 22½ percent.

Newsitem Captioned 'Fluoride ghost haunts Amreli'

@2094. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Statesmen of April 14, 1992 under the caption "Fluoride ghost haunts Amreli";

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a high level of fluoride in the underground drinking water causing death of about 70,000 people in about 37 villages of Amreli District of Gujarat;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what steps Government have taken for the provision of fresh drinking water to save the lives of the affected people; and

(e) what are the details of scheme so far undertaken by the Central and State Governments and the progress so far made in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The level of fluoride reported in 36 affected villages in Amreli dis-

@Previously unstarred question 1611, transferred from 8th May, 1992.